

RESOLUTION URGING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND FAIR EMPLOYMENT  
STANDARDS FOR ANY EXPANSION OF AMAZON INVOLVING THE CITY OF LOWELL

***WHEREAS***, COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on the health, safety, and well-being of the residents of the City of Lowell; *and*,

***WHEREAS***, The preventative measures put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by state and local agencies have had a substantial economic impact on local retail establishments in Lowell; *and*,

***WHEREAS***, Established parcel delivery networks that have long-operated within Lowell and the surrounding area, and existing area contracts within the construction industry have set community standards for family-sustaining wages and workplace benefits including, but not limited to, quality health insurance and a secure retirement; *and*,

***WHEREAS***, Existing retail and established parcel delivery options that currently operate within Lowell and the surrounding area coexist in a range of neighborhoods and add value to the fabric of the community, including by offering quality careers for Lowell residents to provide for their families; *and*,

***WHEREAS***, Established parcel delivery options have aptly served the residents of the City of Lowell throughout the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining the highest of standards for their essential workers; *and*,

***WHEREAS***, Amazon, which does not conform to community standards for wages, benefits, and working conditions, has targeted several surrounding communities for expansion of its e-commerce operations.

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED***,

That the Lowell City Council urges Amazon, prior to any expansion of warehouse, fulfillment, or delivery operations involving the city of Lowell, to meet and confer with members of the Lowell community including, but not limited to, impacted neighborhood groups; local residents; representatives of labor unions with experience representing workers employed in established parcel delivery operations, fulfillment operations, and the building & construction trades; and any other interested parties to discuss how Amazon's potential expansion can benefit the City of Lowell and its residents, while guaranteeing sustainable growth for the city and helping to ensure that fair and equitable employment standards are maintained for all e-commerce networks; *and*,

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***,

That prior to any expansion involving the City of Lowell, Amazon commits to and presents sufficient evidence to the Lowell City Council that its operations will meet or exceed current community standards established in the construction industry, and by established parcel delivery networks with a history of operating in Lowell and the surrounding area for fulfillment and delivery. This commitment would include that all delivery drivers will be direct employees of Amazon and not independent contractors. Amazon must commit that all of its delivery drivers will be competent, safe drivers, and that Amazon and its delivery drivers will maintain the utmost professional conduct in their day to day operations in the neighborhoods of the City of Lowell.